The College Fed Challenge is an annual competition in which teams of students from schools across the country compete by demonstrating their knowledge about the Federal Reserve and its monetary policy. Each team has 15 minutes to present a monetary policy recommendation based on their assessment of economic and financial conditions. Then, they must defend their recommendations for another 15 minutes by answering questions from a panel of judges.

As the red banners in Hill Hall attest, Rutgers Newark has a history of doing quite well in the competition, four different years placing first in the New York District competition (out of 36 schools entered) and going on to the national finals at the Federal Reserve Board in Washington DC, twice placing second in the nation. Many Fed Challenge students have gone on to get jobs within the Federal Reserve System or at major banks and other large financial institutions on Wall Street (like Standard and Poor’s and Moody’s).

The Fed Challenge takes place in late October and early November, but our team begins its preparation in the late spring and over the summer. In the actual competition, teams are represented by no more than five students, but additional team members are needed to serve as background researchers to assist with data analysis and the PowerPoint presentation. If you have taken a course in macro and/or money and banking, and have an interest in learning more about current economic policy, you might consider joining the team.

On Wednesdays April 10th and 17th at 2:30 (free period) we will hold orientation sessions for new students interested in becoming part of this year’s team. Come meet with former and returning team members to learn more about what is involved. Professor John Graham, who coaches the team, will be there as well. The April 10th orientation will be held in Hill Hall 105. The April 17th orientation will be held in Hill Hall 115.